111TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4959

To strengthen the capacity of the United States to lead the international community in reversing the trends of renewable natural resource degradation around the world that threaten to undermine global prosperity and security and diminish the diversity of life on Earth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 25, 2010

Mr. Carnahan (for himself, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Sires, Mr. Ehlers, Mrs. Biggert, Mrs. Maloney, and Mr. Dicks) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To strengthen the capacity of the United States to lead the international community in reversing the trends of renewable natural resource degradation around the world that threaten to undermine global prosperity and security and diminish the diversity of life on Earth.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Global Conservation
- 5 Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2	Congress	finde	tha	$\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{O}}$	wing.
<u> </u>	Congress	mus	une	TOHC	wmg:

- (1) Five hundred million people in developing countries depend on fresh water from natural areas that are under threat of degradation.
- (2) Two billion people depend on rapidly diminishing fish stocks for a significant source of their daily protein.
- (3) Wild species provide more than \$300,000,000,000 in benefits to world agriculture from natural pest control and the pollination of two-thirds of the crop species that feed the world.
- (4) Plant breeding programs involving genetic enhancements from the wild relatives of agricultural crops have helped feed billions of people around the world and are valued at \$115,000,000,000 per year.
- (5) Human degradation of and encroachment into natural ecosystems such as rainforests increases opportunities for the outbreak and spread of animal-borne infectious diseases—similar to AIDS, SARS, avian flu, malaria, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, and yellow fever—that could cause high levels of mortality and affect major global industries including travel, trade, tourism, food production, and finance.
- (6) Forests prevent catastrophic flooding and severe drought, and coral reefs and mangroves re-

- duce the impact of large storms on coastal populations saving \$9,000,000,000 in damages each year and reducing outlays for disaster assistance.
 - (7) The destruction of forests mostly in developing countries releases more greenhouse gases than the entire world transportation sector. As one of the most cost effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a global forest conservation program could help reduce the cost to the United States of efforts to reduce emissions.
 - (8) More than half of the most prescribed medicines in the United States are derived directly from natural compounds or patterned after them. Due to the loss of natural areas and compounds from wild species, one marketable prescription drug is estimated to be lost every two years.
 - (9) The U.S. National Intelligence Council expects demographic trends and natural resource scarcities relating to water, food, arable land, and energy sources to lead to instabilities and conflict in the years ahead.
 - (10) Illegal logging, fishing, and mining in developing countries flood the international market with low-cost products that undercut the competitiveness of responsible companies in the United

- States. In the absence of competition from illegal producers, the United States would be able to increase wood product exports by \$460,000,000 a year.
 - (11) Sound natural resource management, healthy levels of species diversity, and functioning natural ecosystems are vital to alleviating poverty for many communities in developing countries that depend on these resources for food, medicine, housing material, and other necessities.
 - (12) Women are especially vulnerable to the threat of natural resource degradation because they produce most of the food and collect most of the firewood in many regions, comprise a large portion of small landholders and small-scale producers, face heightened food insecurity, and have less access to land, other natural resources, credit and resource management assistance.
 - (13) The initial stages of a major extinction crisis are occurring now, and as many as two-thirds of all known species could be near extinction by the end of this century. Three-quarters of the world's terrestrial species are in developing countries that are rapidly destroying their natural areas and habitats.

- 1 (14) The United States does not have a strat-2 egy for reversing any of the major renewable natural 3 resource depletion trends around the world and the 4 threats they pose to the nation's health, security, or 5 economy.
 - (15) Several executive branch agencies are engaged in some aspect of international conservation, yet their efforts are not coordinated in a manner that maximizes the effectiveness of the United States' international conservation efforts overall.
 - (16) Participation by the United States in multilateral efforts to conserve natural resources, such as through the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility, leverages financial commitments by other countries by a much as 14 to one.

16 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

17 In this Act:

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18 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; DEVELOPING WORLD.—The terms "developing countries" 19 "developing world" mean a country or countries with 20 21 a relatively low level of material well being and con-22 sidered "developing" by the World Bank's 2009 23 Country Classification System with 2008 Gross Na-24 tional Income per capita below \$11,905.

- (2) Hotspot regions.—The term "hotspot regions" means regions of the developing world that contain an unusually high concentration of species found nowhere else and that have lost at least 70 percent of their original extent.
 - (3) Natural resources or renewable natural resources" and "renewable natural resources" mean natural resources, including soils, forests, animal and plant populations and products, coral reefs, and water but do not include nonrenewable natural resources such as minerals, oil, and other fossil fuels.
 - (4) Sustainable forest management certification system.—The term "sustainable forest management certification system" means a system of forest monitoring and forest products tracking designed to ensure that forest products are produced using methods that take into account a variety of widely accepted environmental, social, and economic criteria.
 - (5) THREATENED SPECIES.—The term "threatened species" means, at a minimum, species identified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and its constituent networks of govern-

1	ments, specialist groups, and other stakeholders as
2	having a high probability of global extinction.
3	(6) Wilderness.—The term "wilderness"
4	means areas of the developing world larger than
5	2,500,000 acres and more than 70 percent intact.
6	SEC. 4. PURPOSE.
7	The purpose of this Act is to strengthen United
8	States leadership and the effectiveness of the United
9	States response to the worldwide natural resource and bio-
10	diversity depletion crisis under existing statutory authority
11	governing United States international assistance for con-
12	servation by—
13	(1) establishing a comprehensive global natural
14	resource and biodiversity conservation assistance
15	strategy for United States Government activities as-
16	sisting developing countries that includes a plan
17	for—
18	(A) addressing major natural resource deg-
19	radation trends relating to human well-being
20	and environmental sustainability such as loss of
21	soils, watersheds, wilderness, fish stocks, for-
22	ests, species, and other critical resources;
23	(B) identifying clear goals, priorities, and
24	benchmarks of success;

1	(C) the phased expansion of existing crit-
2	ical programs where necessary;
3	(D) improved coordination among execu-
4	tive branch agencies engaged in international
5	conservation in order to clarify roles, reduce du-
6	plication, and enhance effectiveness; and
7	(E) improved integration of conservation
8	goals within the development, security, and
9	other foreign policy priorities of the United
10	States;
11	(2) providing authorization for funding for
12	United States efforts to help address the major
13	threats to natural resources, species, and ecosystems
14	in developing countries; and
15	(3) improving coordination among the United
16	States, foreign governments, and international orga-
17	nizations in effectively delivering conservation assist-
18	ance through governments, multilateral organiza-
19	tions, private organizations, and local communities
20	and community partnerships.

TITLE I—POLICY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

3	SEC. 101. COMPREHENSIVE UNITED STATES INTER-
4	NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY.
5	(a) In General.—The President, acting through the
6	Coordinator for Global Conservation designated pursuant
7	section 102, shall, not later than one year after the date
8	of the enactment of this Act, establish a comprehensive
9	and integrated strategy (hereafter referred to as the
10	"International Conservation Strategy") to help combat
11	global natural resource and biodiversity degradation in de-
12	veloping countries and that builds on existing bilateral and
13	multilateral programs and strengthens the capacity of the
14	United States to collaborate with developing countries and
15	other donor countries and the private sector and be an
16	effective leader of an international effort of such Strategy.
17	(b) Programmatic Approach.—The International
18	Conservation Strategy established pursuant to subsection
19	(a) shall provide a comprehensive Government-wide plan
20	of action to address global natural resource and biodiver-
21	sity degradation that identifies specific and measurable
22	goals, benchmarks, and time frames, including—
23	(1) advancing conservation in the world's most
24	ecologically and economically important terrestrial
25	wilderness areas and marine ecosystems such that

- conservation or sustainable development consistent with long-term conservation has been achieved on an area of land exceeding 2,000,000 square miles and an area of sea exceeding 6,000,000 square miles;
 - (2) protecting 34 discrete hotspot regions that provide a high level of economic benefit to human communities as well as a high concentration of genetic and other natural resources;
 - (3) helping developing countries address unlawful, unreported, and unregulated fishing in ten developing countries where fish stocks are severely depleted and regional fishing economies threatened through increased surveillance and enforcement;
 - (4) safeguarding natural areas providing fresh water to 12 major urban centers in developing countries or 50,000,000 people in developing countries;
 - (5) advancing enforcement efforts against unlawful wildlife trafficking operations in ten centers of the unlawful global wildlife trade;
 - (6) stabilizing or reversing renewable natural resource scarcity trends in three regions that are vulnerable to conflict, instability, or mass migration from natural resource depletion; and
- (7) expanding substantially the amount of economically and ecologically significant forested land

- under a credible sustainable forest management certification system.
- 3 (c) Coordination and Leverage.—The Inter-
- 4 national Conservation Strategy shall coordinate and lever-
- 5 age the participation of relevant executive branch agen-
- 6 cies, foreign governments, and the private sector in ways
- 7 that—

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- 8 (1) clarify United States efforts to address the 9 conservation crisis within the broader United States 10 development, foreign policy, and security agendas;
 - (2) establish policy guidance to link investments in specific conservation programs to the broader goals of advancing economic development, alleviating poverty, improving United States economic competitiveness, protecting global public health, improving the access of women to natural resources, and reducing resource scarcities that have the potential to lead to civil instabilities, mass migrations, and conflict;
 - (3) reflect Government-wide policy that encompasses the programs of and reduces duplication among executive branch agencies that influence or engage in international conservation;
 - (4) provide a plan to identify and improve United States policies that could be undermining the

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1	conservation of critical natural resources and bio-
2	diversity abroad; and
3	(5) seek to encourage and leverage participation
4	from the private sector, other donor governments,
5	governments of developing countries, international
6	financial institutions, and other international organi-
7	zations to implement such Strategy.
8	(d) REVISION.—Not later than five years after the
9	International Conservation Strategy is established, such
10	Strategy shall be revised to reflect—
11	(1) new information collected pursuant to the
12	implementation of such Strategy;
13	(2) advances in the understanding of biological
14	diversity, the economic and security impacts of re-
15	newable natural resource degradation, and climate
16	change; and
17	(3) the impacts of climate change on conserva-
18	tion, biodiversity, and human needs.
19	SEC. 102. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.
20	(a) Coordinator.—The President shall designate
21	an individual to serve in the Executive Office of the Presi-

22 dent as the Coordinator for Global Conservation (hereafter

23 referred to as the "Coordinator"). The Coordinator

24 shall—

- 1 (1) advise the President on international con-2 servation-related issues;
 - (2) oversee the development and implementation of the International Conservation Strategy established pursuant to section 101(a);
 - (3) enhance program and policy coordination among the relevant executive branch agencies in implementing the International Conservation Strategy by ensuring that each relevant executive branch agency undertakes programs primarily in those areas where each such agency has the greatest expertise, technical capabilities, and potential for success and ensuring that agencies avoid duplication of effort;
 - (4) evaluate the effectiveness of the international conservation programs of the relevant executive branch agencies in meeting the goals of the International Conservation Strategy by developing and applying specific performance measurements;
 - (5) assess and certify the adequacy of the budgets for the international conservation programs of the relevant executive branch agencies in meeting the goals of the International Conservation Strategy, and submit to the heads of the departments and agencies with responsibilities under such Strategy by

- July 1 of each year budget recommendations, including requests for specific initiatives that are consistent with the President's priorities under such Strategy;
 - (6) take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the climate change, export and business development, trade, and development and humanitarian assistance polices of the various executive branch agencies advance the interests of the United States in conserving critical global natural resources and biodiversity;
 - (7) identify innovative pilot projects or underfunded programs for early or immediate funding that are important for demonstrating or further developing conservation methodologies or approaches likely to be important to the success of the International Conservation Strategy;
 - (8) identify innovative pilot projects or underfunded programs that result in expanding the access of women to sustainably managed natural resources and to techniques for improved natural resource management;
 - (9) expand significantly the role of private sector leveraging in United States bilateral global conservation assistance by substantially expanding pro-

1	grams that leverage private sector contributions.
2	such as the Agency for International Development's
3	Global Development Alliance in the conservation sec-
4	tor; and
5	(10) take such actions as are necessary to use
6	diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international insti-
7	tutions and agreements, and other appropriate
8	mechanisms to lead other countries toward the goals
9	and actions of the International Conservation Strat-
10	egy, together with commitments of increased funding
11	for meeting such goals.
12	(b) Interagency Working Group on Global
13	Conservation.—
14	(1) Establishment.—The Coordinator shall
15	establish in the executive branch the Interagency
16	Working Group on Global Conservation (hereafter
17	referred to as "the interagency group".
18	(2) Duties.—The interagency group shall—
19	(A) advise the Coordinator on the develop-
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	ment and implementation of the International
21	ment and implementation of the International Conservation Strategy;
21	Conservation Strategy;

1	(C) review policies that may be obstacles to
2	achieving the goals of the International Con-
3	servation Strategy;
4	(D) oversee and report on the implementa-
5	tion of the strategy within the relevant execu-
6	tive branch agencies;
7	(E) advise the Coordinator of measures to
8	increase appropriate agency participation in and
9	interagency coordination on conservation
10	projects; and
11	(F) meet regularly to review progress on
12	the objectives described in subparagraphs (A)
13	through (E).
14	(3) Membership.—The interagency group
15	shall consist of officials in relevant executive branch
16	agencies responsible for overseeing and imple-
17	menting programs that conduct international con-
18	servation activities or affect the ability of the United
19	States to achieve the goals of the International Con-
20	servation Strategy, as well as officials capable of
21	providing information to the Coordinator that can

aid in the development and implementation of such

Strategy.

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1	SEC. 103. PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL
2	CONSERVATION.
3	(a) Establishment.—The President shall establish
4	the President's Advisory Committee for Global Conserva-
5	tion (hereafter referred to as "the Advisory Committee")
6	to ensure that the best scientific expertise and the con-
7	cerns of relevant public constituencies are reflected in the
8	international conservation policies of the United States.
9	(b) Duties.—The Advisory Committee shall—
10	(1) advise the President on the development
11	and implementation of the International Conserva-
12	tion Strategy established pursuant to section 101(a);
13	(2) assist the Coordinator in the implementa-
14	tion of the Coordinator's responsibilities in accord-
15	ance with section 102;
16	(3) review periodically the progress of such
17	Strategy and at least on an annual basis bring to
18	the attention of the Coordinator innovative pilot
19	projects that further develop conservation meth-
20	odologies likely to be important to the success of the
21	International Conservation Strategy; and
22	(4) take steps to educate the public about the
23	global conservation programs of the United States.
24	(c) Membership.—The Advisory Committee shall
25	consist of at least 25 members, of whom—

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- (1) not fewer than four shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in international conservation;
 - (2) not fewer than two shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in the relationship among natural resources, biodiversity, economic development, and poverty alleviation;
 - (3) not fewer than two shall be selected from representatives of United States private businesses or trade associations and have an expertise in the relationship between global natural resource conservation and the competitiveness of the United States economy or key industries;
 - (4) not fewer than two shall be former members of Congress or former high level officials in the executive branch;
 - (5) not fewer than two shall represent religious institutions or communities of faith;
 - (6) not fewer than one shall be an expert on the effects of natural resource degradation on women's lives and livelihoods;

- 1 (7) not fewer than one shall be selected from a 2 zoological institution with expertise in in situ and ex 3 situ conservation;
 - (8) not fewer than one shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in global freshwater water supply;
 - (9) not fewer than one shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in the relationship between natural resource conservation and food security;
 - (10) not fewer than one shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in the effects of climate change on natural resources and biological diversity;
 - (11) not fewer than one shall be a former member of the United States Armed Forces and have an expertise in natural resource scarcity and conflict and security issues;
 - (12) not fewer than one shall be selected from representatives of United States universities or nongovernmental organizations and have an expertise in

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- 1 infectious diseases that can be shared between ani-
- 2 mal and human populations; and
- 3 (13) not fewer than one shall be selected from
- 4 the arts or the media.
- 5 (d) Period of Appointment.—Each member of the
- 6 Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of three
- 7 years except that of the initial members of the committee
- 8 in which one-third of the members shall be appointed for
- 9 a term of two years, one-third shall be appointed for a
- 10 term of three years, and one-third shall be appointed for
- 11 a term of four years.
- 12 (e) Meetings.—The Advisory Committee shall con-
- 13 vene at the request of the chairperson who shall be se-
- 14 lected by the Coordinator or, at the discretion of the Coor-
- 15 dinator, selected by a majority vote of the members of the
- 16 Advisory Committee.
- 17 (f) Reporting.—The Advisory Committee shall re-
- 18 port to the Coordinator on its deliberations, conclusions,
- 19 and recommendations.
- 20 (g) Expenses.—The members of the Advisory Com-
- 21 mittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
- 22 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees
- 23 of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
- 24 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-

- 1 ular places of business in performance of services for the
- 2 committee.
- 3 (h) Exemption.—The Federal Advisory Committee
- 4 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the work process
- 5 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

6 SEC. 104. REPORTING.

- 7 (a) Annual Reports, Including Best Practices
- 8 Reports.—Not later than one year after the date of the
- 9 enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Presi-
- 10 dent shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- 11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
- 12 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the develop-
- 13 ment and implementation of the International Conserva-
- 14 tion Strategy established pursuant to section 101(a) as-
- 15 sessing progress made during the preceding year and high-
- 16 lighting the programs receiving financial assistance from
- 17 the United States that have the potential for replication
- 18 or adaptation, particularly at low cost, across international
- 19 conservation programs.
- 20 (b) Program Review.—Not later than four years
- 21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
- 22 shall transmit to the committees referred to in subsection
- 23 (a) a report assessing progress made during the preceding
- 24 four years and evaluating the effectiveness of United

- 1 States global conservation programs in achieving the
- 2 International Conservation Strategy.
- 3 (c) Publication of Reports.—The Coordinator
- 4 shall ensure that all reports required by this section are
- 5 published on the White House Web site or another appro-
- 6 priate Web site.
- 7 SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 8 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
- 9 may be necessary to carry out this title.

10 TITLE II—MULTILATERAL 11 PROGRAMS

- 12 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**
- The purpose of this title is to leverage significantly
- 14 United States financial commitments to global natural re-
- 15 sources conservation by encouraging other countries to
- 16 make substantial commitments of funding and other forms
- 17 of assistance to a comprehensive and coordinated inter-
- 18 national natural resource and biodiversity conservation as-
- 19 sistance strategy in order to promote economic develop-
- 20 ment, human health, food and water security, environ-
- 21 mental sustainability, the protection of biodiversity, and
- 22 local and regional security.

1 SEC. 202. DIPLOMATIC GOALS AND VENUES.

2	(a) Goals.—Congress urges the President to work
3	with the world's major foreign assistance donor countries
4	to—
5	(1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated
6	international conservation assistance strategy con-
7	sistent with the priorities identified in the United
8	States International Conservation Strategy estab-
9	lished pursuant to section 101(a);
10	(2) identify innovative and efficient multilateral
11	mechanisms that can be used to coordinate inter-
12	national action by all participating donor countries,
13	identify and reduce duplication of efforts among
14	such donors, achieve the most cost effective invest-
15	ments, and leverage international foreign assistance
16	with meaningful financial and other commitments in
17	recipient countries;
18	(3) agree on funding requirements and funding
19	goals from all participating donor countries;
20	(4) negotiate a timetable for achieving such
21	Strategy's goals; and
22	(5) promote existing multilateral initiatives de-
23	signed to identify meaningful levels of interim fund-
24	ing for forest conservation in developing countries in
25	advance of the implementation of any international

- 1 program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
- 2 forest destruction and degradation.
- 3 (b) Venues.—Congress urges the President to ex-
- 4 plore opportunities for achieving the goals identified in
- 5 this section within the context of United States bilateral
- 6 diplomacy with other important international donor coun-
- 7 tries, bilateral diplomacy with newly emerging donor coun-
- 8 tries, and all appropriate multilateral venues.

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